

"You see, I have good reasons for saying I am wraith-haunted, and for knowing that the voice I heard to-night is a call from the spirit world to me."

Mr. Birley and his wife both looked perplexed and serious.

"I do remember something about a ghost in grandfather's garret when I was a very little girl. But how was it I was never told of the wraiths you think you have had?"

"They were hushed up lest my grief should be reawakened. And now let us go to bed—it is late. The issues of life and death are in higher hands than ours."

The morning broke—clear, sparkling, exhilarating. Mrs. Carson made her appearance in her usual health, a little paler, it might be, but that was all.

Mrs. Birley had hesitated whether to issue her invitations, but finally resolved not to disappoint the children, and so they were sent.

The nursery doors were thrown open, and all hands, big and little, summoned to the task of decoration with evergreens and holly.

In the midst of it all a carrier brought a large box inscribed, "Aunt Carson's Gift." The old lady had made her purchases the day before. There was a general rush to wrench open the lid, and make a raid on the contents. Books, dolls, work-boxes, a desk, toys noisy and noiseless, were there, each labelled with the fortunate recipient's name. Flushed and elated, the youngsters rushed hither and thither displaying their prizes. Frocks and pinafores filled to repletion dropped their contents, until the little ones might be tracked by straggling Shemans and Noahs, cups and saucers, whistles and drumsticks.

The box had been removed, the litter cleared away, the stray wraiths collected, when Mrs. Carson descended the stairs after her customary nap. A wee round top, the color of the stair-carpet, had been overlooked. She stepped upon it, and fell from top to bottom, striking her head against the balustrade.

There was a rush through the house to where she lay stunned on the oil-cloth. Reverently and sadly she was carried into the nearest room—the one occupied overnight. A messenger was sent on horseback for a surgeon and for Mr. Birley.

Shocked beyond measure, the latter gentleman hastened home in time to hear the fiat pronounced:

"An injured spine—concussion of the brain—no hope whatever."

A physician summoned hastily confirmed the surgeon's decision.

"The weeping children were huddled from the room."

"How long may she linger?" was Mr. Birley's question.

"She may go off any moment, the shock to her system is so great; she may last two or three hours."

"Do you think she is conscious?"

"I am afraid not."

Mrs. Birley, sobbing, whispered to her husband, "James, do you think you did hear anything supernatural last night?"

"Two days before he would have said, 'All hush!' now he answered, 'God only knows! It is most mysterious.'"

"If she did, she will not die until nine o'clock."

"At nine?" murmured the dying woman.

"She was evidently conscious, and something more she said, but the words were inaudible. Husband and wife watched the clock as intently as Mrs. Carson had watched it the night before."

"Ten minutes to nine! The retreating pulse quickened under the doctor's touch. The lips moved."

"William!" was faintly audible to the bent ear.

"Five minutes to nine! The 'change' was perceptible."

"Yes, William!"

There was another pause—a burr—the clock's note of warning. There was a rattle in the throat of the dying woman.

"Coming, William!" was gasped out audibly.

NINE!

A last leap of the pulse—a last flicker of the eyelids—the "call" was obeyed.

Mrs. Carson, wraith-haunted, spirit-summoned, was of the dead!

GENERAL NEWS.

There will be a dead letter auction sale at Washington, on January 17, by order of the Postmaster General. Among the 8,000 different articles which will be offered for sale on the occasion, as a testimony to the carelessness of parties who use the mails, are books, music party, engravings, jewelry, neckties, baby clothes, socks, scarfs, violin strings, scissors, knives, shoe-brushes, corn crushers, scabbies,

The People's Press.

SALEM, N. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1876.

The Press for 1876.—Remember, a liberal discount will be allowed to clubs of 5, 10 or more new mail subscribers for the full year of 1876. Should any of our old patrons not receive their papers, we would be pleased if they would renew their subscriptions.

THE NEW YEAR.

In entering upon the new year of 1876, and the new volume of the Press, the 24th, we tender our sincere thanks for the liberal encouragement received during the past year, hoping by strict attention to business and unceasing efforts to please, we may be favored another year by a generous and intelligent public, with an increased share of patronage.

From all indications, the present year will be unusually eventful in the political world: In this country, if we do not mistake the signs of the times, a great political revolution will take place, and the affairs in Europe are said to present rather a gloomy outlook.

Here we have no fears of war, or rumors of war, but the people will settle matters and things in a quiet way, at the ballot box. If a few leading Northern and Western fanatics would divest themselves of the apparent bitter sectional feeling still entertained by them, very little of the results of the late unpleasantness would manifest itself anywhere, as the South has accepted the situation in as good faith as could reasonably be expected. We look hopefully to the present Congress and the great Centennial celebration to extinguish the latent sparks of the fires of the late war, effectually, so that the good feeling between the recent estranged sections of this great country may be fully restored, before another year passes away.

Orators, editors, and cross-roads politicians have been keeping the bitter feeling engendered by the recent war alive too long already for self and party purposes, and it is high time public opinion should be brought down everything of the kind. Let all good, honest Republicans, Democrats and Conservatives come to the rescue, every time when they have an opportunity, and show, at the ballot box, that ten years' long enough to harbor bitter sectional and personal feelings, and that they are determined to support no longer any man or set of men, who belong to a party which, periodically, strives to rip open the old sectional sores, which should have been healed long since. Let the people of all classes and shades of politics come to the rescue, and assist in restoring the old time good feeling throughout the land. Let by-gones be by-gones, and the dead past bury its dead.

May the new year just entered upon be everything we could wish to the kind readers of the People's Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Committee appointed to investigate affairs in the Departments in Washington, submitted their report in the matter of the Witco, ski and Sugg Fort claims, having investigated the clerks of the Treasury Department. The committee find both claims fictitious and fraudulent, and that they passed the offices of the third Auditor and second Comptroller, without such examination as the law requires; that the third Auditor and Messrs. James F. Allen and George Doolittle, clerks in his office, and the second Comptroller, his deputy, Mr. Curtis, and Mr. John C. Wilson, a clerk in his office, had failed to give such claims the necessary examination, and are therefore chargeable with culpable negligence. The Secretary of the Treasury submitted the report to the President, and on his return to the Department showed it to Messrs. Broadhead, Rutherford and Curtis who promptly agreed to tender their resignations. The report was also shown to

the extreme Northern doctrines, and intense bitterness, all now show. The having become exponents, of Beaufort, of Rhett, in the North

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ELECTIONS LAST YEAR—THE VOTE OF THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PARTIES.

We copy the following figures and facts from the Baltimore Sun as showing the relative vote of the two parties for the past year and the immense increase of Democratic strength since the year 1873:

Sixteen States held elections last year. The aggregate vote is 1,923,111 Democratic and 1,907,293 Republican, a Democratic majority of 15,818. A comparison of this vote with that of 1873 in the same States shows that in that year the Democrats had 1,716,487, and the Republicans 1,830,853 votes, thus evidencing a Democratic gain of 129,694. The official vote of Mississippi gives the total Republican vote at 67,000, which is but 3,462 less than the vote for the Republican candidate for State Treasurer in 1873, when an exciting canvass for Governor was in progress. The pretense of intimidation is therefore preposterous."

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE.

The New York Bulletin argues, with great force, that the expenses of the Government can be reduced many millions, without obstructing the wheels of progress. The heads of reduction, as indicated by Mr. Randall, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations are these:

The Army.....	\$ 12,000,000
Navy.....	6,000,000
Department of Justice.....	1,000,000
Indians.....	1,000,000
The sundry civil bill.....	8,000,000
River and harbors.....	2,000,000
Total.....	\$ 30,000,000

A correspondent of the Courier-Journal, treating of this reform, says: "There can be no doubt of the power of the House to effect these reductions. The Senate can kill a bill to reduce the taxes, and probably would do so; but the House can say to Grant, 'Take this appropriation, or do without.'"

TOBACCO CULTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The New York Daily Bulletin, of the 15th ult., remarks that the successful raising of fine quality of tobacco in the Western portion of North Carolina is the latest agricultural achievement in that State. Such an attainment was, until within a few years past, little thought of, and indeed would have been ridiculed if mentioned ten years ago. But with the constant developments of the capabilities of the soil, in this, as well as other Southern States, impossibilities of the past are being proved possibilities of the present. The fact that thousands of pounds of fancy wrappers are now produced (in North Carolina) where, ten years ago, the crop was scarcely known is certainly demonstrative of these facts. A new method of curing is introduced which will add materially to the success of the tobacco interest in North Carolina. This is in curing the leaf off the stalk. The advantage obtained this wise is shown in the following yield of 230 pounds of green tobacco, one-half of which was cured on the stalk, 12 pounds 15 ounces; stalks weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces; total 19 pounds 5 ounces. Cured on stalk, 11 pounds 11 ounces; stalk on this top, 8 pounds; total 19 pounds 11 ounces.

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PIEDMONT WAREHOUSE,

WINSTON, N. C.

Has the BEST LIGHTED SALE-ROOM of any Warehouse in town.

IT WAS THE FIRST HOUSE TO REDUCE CHARGES. THE HIGHEST MARKET PRICES OBTAINED.

N. 51.-3m.

A comparison of the ten leading cities to the Union as to population, dwellings and the annual value of manufactured products has recently been made by the New York Bulletin. New York is the largest in point of population and manufactures. Philadelphia has nearly fifty thousand more dwelling-houses than New York. This is explained by the fact that the tenement-house system prevails in New York, while in Philadelphia there are no tenement-houses. The States, the actual value of whose manufactured products exceed fifty million dollars per annum, are California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Wisconsin.—*W. Journal.*

Mr. Samuel J. Randall is spending the holidays in the very commendable work of examining the estimates which Mr. Grant's secretaries and bureau officers sent to Congress, with the explanation that they were down to the lowest possible notch, and that unless they were voted then we might not expect to enjoy the precious blessings of this beautiful administration. A Washington correspondent sends the cheering intelligence that Mr. Randall sees the way clear to a very large reduction. Mr. Robeson, who is a great sailor among lawyers and a great lawyer among sailors, can get along very comfortably in the opinion of the chairman of the Appropriation Committee, with the trifling of seven millions of dollars less than he modestly asked for, and the great war secretary, Mr. Belknap, will assuredly be required to manage his department for many millions less than he thinks it can be done, or retire to the quiet shades of his home in Keokuk. Mr. Randall is doing good, brave, honest work, and the country will thank him for it.

The Hebrew race are supposed to number from 6,000,000 to 7,000,000, but the Hebrew Leader tells us that if we bear in mind the old prophecy the descendants of Abraham shall become as numerous as the stars of the heavens and the seeds of the sea, it upsets the dimensions of Palestine would be found rather too limited and hardly answering all requirements. It doubts, however, whether that land will ever become the home of Israel, despite strengthened in dispersion, and grown under the favorable auspices of civilization to become one of the most important and formidable people on the face of the globe, preserving a distinctive individuality, held together under the most trying and adverse circumstances by a faith firmer than Sinai's mount from which it was promulgated.

DEATH OF AN EMINENT HISTORIAN.—The departure from the scene of his extensive and honorable labors of Earl Stanhope excites a wide interest among literary Americans as well as among all who possess tastes for solid and elegant literature. At last, at the venerable age of 70 this distinguished historian of the martial reign of Queen Anne is gathered to his fathers and sleeps with Hume, Macaulay and Grote, the quiet and glorious sleep of the illustrious dead.

STICK TO IT.

Learn a trade, or get into business, and go at it with a determination that defies failure, and you will succeed. Don't leave it because hard blows are to be struck, or disagreeable work to be performed. Those who have worked their way up to wealth and usefulness do not belong to the shiftless and unstable class, and if you do not work while a young man, as an old man you will be nothing. Work with a will and conquer your prejudice against labor, and manfully bear the heat and burden of the day. It may be hard the first week, but after that I assure you it will become a pleasure, and you will feel enough better satisfied with yourself to pay for all the trial of a beginning. Let perseverance and industry be your motto, and with a steady application to business you need have no fear for the future. Don't be ashamed of your plain clothes, provided you have earned them. They are far more beautiful in the estimation of all honest men and women than the costly gewgaws sported by some people at the expense of the confiding tailor. The people respect you only when well clad, will be slow to run from you in the hour of adversity.

THE ARMY.

It is to be overawed the Southern States by a standing army of 25,000 men, the tax-payers about \$10,000,000 per year. It should be reduced to at most 15,000 with this reduction of the line of the army entirely too large general staff, general officers, should be reduced.

by Democrats that the standing army of 13,000—was enough for when the frontier was more open than now. The building of the railroad and the rapid settlement of the States have done much to do away with the need of the army. It is deemed by the military authorities that 15,000 are ample for all practical purposes. The cost last year in the neighborhood of \$40,000,000. The reduction of the army by 40 percent will thus be a net gain to the Treasury to the amount of \$16,000,000. The reduction if carried out in the same ratio as to officers, will throw out four hundred.

THE MISSISSIPPI AFFAIR.—There were a few days since, reports in the papers, of more trouble in Mississippi, and that Redmond, a revenue officer had to flee for life, being pursued by a body of armed men. We were satisfied, at the time, that the report was greatly exaggerated and that there was no need of the troops which were demanded for the protection of said officer and the enforcement of the laws.

The latest despatch from Vicksburg, dated Dec. 31, no doubt gives the correct version of the affair, which we annex:

VICKSBURG, Dec. 31.—A special to the Herald from Summit, Mississippi, the point to which the troops were ordered, says no armed band of men were in Summit at any time. Wednesday before Christmas several young men from another county, on a drunken spree, talked a good deal about Redmond, intending to annoy and frighten him. Redmond had a personal difficulty with one of the men, when he became frightened and telegraphed for troops. The dispatch says the citizens of Summit are able and willing to protect Redmond in the discharge of his duties.

RALEIGH NEWS.—Mr. Jordan Stone, one of the original founders of the Raleigh Daily News, has resigned his position as business manager and local editor of that paper.

Mr. Thomas C. Evans has taken charge of the local department of the News. The News is a first class paper, and we are pleased to know that it is in a very prosperous condition. It should have more subscribers at this place.

A Useful & Beautiful Holiday Gift.

Those who wish to please their wives and daughters will be glad to learn that Mr. Jones, the General Agent of Wilson's Sewing Machine, will discount five per cent. from list prices, from December 1st to January 1st. Such a liberal offer is seldom extended to the public.

FINE GIFT BOOKS.

Mabel Martin, by Whittier.

The Shepherd Lady, by Jean Ingelow.

Swiss Pictures.

Italian Pictures.

Spanish Pictures.

"Those Holy Fields."

The Sea and its Wonders.

Allibone's Poetical Quotations.

Allibone's Prose Quotations.

Carleton's Farm Ballads.

The British Poets in Fancy Holiday Binding, and a general stock of the BEST BOOKS for general reading, at the BOOKSTORE.

BEAUTIFUL PAPETRIES 25, 50 and 75.

Very fair commercial Note 30 cents for five quires Envelopes from 50 to 75 cents a box.

JUST PUBLISHED!

SECOND EDITION OF

BLUM'S

Farmer's & Planter's

Almanac

FOR THE YEAR

1876

For sale wholesale and retail,

BY

L. V. & E. T. BLUM, Salem, N. C.

SAFETY LAMPS.

NON EXPLOSIVE, at manufacturer's prices, at CROSLAND'S.

BEST PORTO RICO MOLASSES

at CROSLAND'S.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR AND SYRUP

at CROSLAND'S.

One Dollar, at

WOMACK'S.

BEST BEAT HONEY

at CROSLAND'S.

NO ICE!

We, the undersigned, forbid all persons from entering on our lands for the purpose of netting, shooting or hunting any game, which may be on the same.

THEO. P. KERHEIN, ANDREW BURK, WILLIAM E. NADING, CALVIN RITTS, AUGUSTUS LASH, PETER GEORGE, WILLIAM EVERITT, EDI SIDES, DAVID CHARLES.

SPICES

of all kinds, pure and unadulterated, as cheap as the cheapest, at

Zevely's Drug Store,

embracing

GROUND CINNAMON,

" CLOVES,

" PEPPER,

" GINGER,

" MUSTARD.

In fact all SPICES usually kept in the Stores, Also

ESSENCES

